



Match Policy: What Fellowship Programs Need to Know

Before participating in the *Specialties Matching Service*®, each program director must agree to the terms and conditions of the [Match Participation Agreement \(MPA\)](#). Every program director should read the MPA thoroughly because **the entire Agreement is binding**; however, this document highlights sections of the Agreement that are new and/or may require a program director's specific attention.

New

- ✓ If a position becomes vacant after the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and the program is participating in a Specialties Matching Service Match that has implemented the All In Policy, the position may be filled outside the Match at any time between 12:00 p.m. eastern time on Match Day and prior to the day registration opens for the next Match in which the program participates. (Section 3.4)
- ✓ A program may receive a waiver of the binding match commitment if, after the matching algorithm has been processed, the NRMP learns an applicant who matched to the program is ineligible to enter GME on July 1 in the year of the Match. (Section 3.6)
- ✓ Program directors in Match-participating institutions, regardless of whether their program participates in the Match, cannot discuss, interview for, or offer positions to applicants between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and Match Day. (Section 4.2)
- ✓ Program directors must provide, prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline, complete, timely, and accurate information to applicants, including a copy of the contract the applicant would be expected to sign and all institutional policies regarding eligibility for appointment to a position. (Section 4.6)

New

- ✓ The binding commitment shall be deemed honored if the program provides training through the first 45 days after the start date specified in the appointment contract. A program that terminates a resident within 45 days of the start date specified in the contract shall be presumed to have breached the Agreement unless a waiver has been granted by the NRMP. (Section 5.1)
- ✓ Program staff cannot discuss, interview for, or offer a position to any applicant who has a binding commitment to a concurrent year position in another program. Programs must use the Applicant Match History in the **R3** system to determine the applicant's eligibility for appointment prior to offering the applicant an interview. (Section 5.2)
- ✓ Program staff cannot request applicants to reveal ranking preferences or the names, specialties, geographic locations, or other identifying information about programs to which they have or may apply. (Section 6.0)

New

- ✓ Programs must begin training applicants under investigation by the NRMP if the investigation has not concluded by the start date of training and the NRMP has not granted a waiver or issued a deferral of the match commitment. (Section 7.2.1)
- ✓ Programs are prohibited from offering a position, regardless of start date, to any applicant who is ineligible as the result of a confirmed violation or a denied waiver. (Section 7.2.2)

Failure to comply with all the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement, whether intentionally or not, may result in an investigation and the imposition of sanctions, including but not limited to being identified as a Match violator in the web-based R3[®] system and notification of the violation to the ACGME and the appropriate program director association.